Potential community college fee hike delayed

Written by

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California’s 2.6 million community college students – who saw their fees rise from $26 per unit to $36 per unit at the start of the academic year – will be spared, at least temporarily, a further increase to $46 at midyear.

Gov. Jerry Brown on Wednesday signed a bill that will delay the potential increase until summer 2012.

The fee increase, along with sweeping cuts in California’s budget, had been subject to being triggered at the middle of the fiscal year if certain state revenue projections are not met.

The bill signed by the governor exempts the community colleges from being immediately triggered. They will, however, still be implemented before the start of the 2012-13 academic year if the revenue projections are not met.

“Good news ...,” Constance Carroll, chancellor of the San Diego Community College District, said in a prepared statement. “Although the California Community Colleges system has the lowest student enrollment fee in the nation, our community college leaders believe that increases in the fee should be related to policy, presented in a predictable manner, and phased in. If the new fee increase is effected, at least our students will have time to plan for their new financial requirement.”

Brown signed a second bill Wednesday that requires reasonable accommodation, up to a tuition refund, be given to community college students called to active duty.

“We applaud Gov. Brown’s action on this legislation that will eliminate potential penalties for students who are in the National Guard if they are called to active duty,” Jack Scott, chancellor of the statewide community college system, said in a prepared statement. “During these deployments, students have little time to prepare, and do not have time to take into consideration enrollment withdrawal deadlines. This is the least we can do ... for members of the armed forces who attend our colleges.”